

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-33 without prejudice and amend claims 34, 38, 46, 52-63 and 65-65 as follows.

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method for performing random access in a mobile communication network having a base transceiver station and a plurality of mobile stations, comprising the steps of:

- a) transmitting a parameter defining allowed access slots used between said base transceiver station and a mobile station to said mobile station;
- b) determining said allowed access slots at said mobile station based on said parameter; and
- c) using at least one of said determined allowed access slots for performing a random access operation to said base transceiver station.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein said parameter is transmitted via a broadcast channel.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein said broadcast channel is the BCH channel of a WCDMA system.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein said random access is performed via the PRACH uplink channel and the AICH downlink channel of the WCDMA system.

38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~34~~, wherein said parameter defines a subset of available access slots of said mobile communication network.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein said subset is determined by another parameter transmitted from said base transceiver station to said mobile station.
40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said other parameter is a timing parameter defining a transmission timing of an uplink access slot.
41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said other parameter is transmitted via a broadcast channel.
42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the bit number of said parameter is changed in dependence on said other parameter.
43. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 42, wherein a transmission of a preamble signature or an acquisition indication is disabled in dependence of the value of said parameter.
44. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 42, wherein an index of an allowed uplink access slot is calculated on the basis of the value of said parameter and a frame number of a frame used for transmitting an uplink access slot.
45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 44, wherein said index is calculated by using the equation

$$i = 3 \cdot N + (F \text{ modulo } 3)$$

$$\text{where } 0 \leq N \leq 2,$$

wherein F and N are integer numbers, and F denotes said frame number, and wherein only access slots having indices within the range 0 to 7 are valid.

46. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 44, wherein said index is calculated by using the equation

$$i = 4 \cdot N + (\Gamma \text{ modulo } 4)$$

where  $0 \leq N \leq 3$ ,

wherein  $\Gamma$  and N are integer numbers, and  $\Gamma$  denotes a frame number indicating two consecutive ~~ones of said frame numbers~~ of said frame used for transmitting an uplink access slot, and wherein only access slots having indices within the range 0 to 14 are valid.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein said parameter determines an offset to be added to said calculated index.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to 34, wherein an index of an allowed uplink access slot is determined on the basis of the value of said parameter irrespective of a frame number of a frame used for transmitting an uplink access slot.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein an allowed downlink slot is determined by adding a predetermined value to an index of a received uplink slot.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49, wherein said predetermined value is selected in accordance with a timing parameter defining a transmission timing of said uplink slot.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein bit values of a binary expression of said parameter determines a combination of calculated indices obtained for other values of said parameter, said other values corresponding to the binary weights of said binary expression.

52. (Currently Amended) A system for performing random access in a mobile communication network, comprising:

a) a network element ~~(10)~~ arranged for transmitting a parameter defining allowed access slots; and

b) a plurality of mobile stations ~~(20)~~ arranged for receiving said ~~transmitted~~ parameter, for determining said allowed access slots based on said ~~received~~ parameter, and for using at least one of said determined allowed access slots for performing a random access operation to said a base transceiver station ~~(10)~~.

53. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 52, wherein said network element is a WCDMA base transceiver station ~~(10)~~ and said mobile station ~~(20)~~ is a WCDMA mobile station.

54. (Currently Amended) A network element for a mobile communication network comprising a plurality of mobile stations ~~(20)~~, comprising:

a) setting means ~~(14)~~ for setting a parameter defining allowed access slots for performing a random access operation; and

b) transmitting means ~~(11)~~ for transmitting said parameter to said plurality of mobile stations ~~(20)~~.

55. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 54, wherein said network element is a WCDMA base transceiver station ~~(10)~~.

56. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 54, wherein said transmitting means ~~(11)~~ is arranged to transmit said parameter via a broadcast channel.

57. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 54, wherein said setting means ~~(14)~~ is arranged to set said parameter in dependence on a timing parameter value defining a transmission timing of an uplink access slot in said random access operation.

58. (Currently Amended) A mobile station for a mobile communication network having at least one network element ~~(10)~~ allowing a random access operation, comprising:

- a) receiving means ~~(21)~~ for receiving a parameter defining allowed access slots for said random access operation from said network element ~~(10)~~;
- b) determining means ~~(23)~~ for determining said allowed access slots based on said received parameter; and
- c) transmitting means ~~(21)~~ for transmitting a random access message to said network element ~~(10)~~ using at least one of said determined allowed access slots.

59. (Currently Amended) A mobile station according to claim 58, wherein said receiving means ~~(21)~~ is arranged to receive said parameter via a broadcast channel.

60. (Currently Amended) A mobile station according to claim 59, wherein said determining means ~~(23)~~ is arranged to determine said allowed access slots on the basis of said received parameter and a timing parameter received via said broadcast channel.

61. (Currently Amended) A mobile station according to claim 58, wherein said determining means ~~(23)~~ is arranged to calculate an index of an allowed uplink access slot on the basis of the value of said received parameter and a frame number of a frame used for transmitting an uplink access slot.

62. (Currently Amended) A mobile station according to claim 58, wherein said determining means ~~(23)~~ is arranged to determine an index of an allowed uplink access slot on the basis of the value of said parameter irrespective of a frame number of a frame used for transmitting an uplink access slot.

63. (Currently Amended) A mobile station according to claim 58, wherein a selection means ~~(24)~~ is provided for randomly selecting from allowed access slots determined by said determining means ~~(23)~~ an uplink access slot to be used for transmitting a preamble of said random access message.

64. (Previously Presented) A mobile station according to claim 63, wherein consecutive preambles are transmitted a predetermined number of access slots apart.

65. (Currently Amended) A mobile station according to claim 64, wherein said predetermined number depends on a timing parameter received by said receiving means ~~(21)~~.

66. (Currently Amended) A mobile station according to claim 64, wherein said selection means ~~(24)~~ is arranged to perform said random selection any time a preamble needs to be transmitted.